REMARKS

The information disclosure statement filed May 26, 2011, submitted prior art cited in foreign counterpart patent applications. Applicant does not possess any undisclosed translations.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for identifying allowable subject matter. Claim 12 is amended to incorporate its base claims 10 and 11. Claims 13 and 14 are amended to depend from claim 12.

The claim objections with respect to the term "non-transitory" are noted. The claims have been amended to resolve this issue. Similarly, the claims are amended to specify the words corresponding to the acronym URL. Support for this amendment is found in paragraph [0007]. Accordingly, the objection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph may be withdrawn.

Independent claim 1 recites an operation of "generating one or more signatures using a length of the electronic communication and the URLs extracted." This solution resolves the problem of a spammer randomizing the contents of a message.

The Examiner states: "Milliken disclosed generating signatures or hash values based upon the content of the email message (using a length of the electronic communication and the URLs extracted)." Milliken does indeed teach generating signatures or hash values, but there is no teaching related to basing such signatures upon "a length of the electronic communication and the URLs extracted".

Milliken makes no reference to the length of an electronic communication and does not otherwise teach the formation of a signature based upon such a length. The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences has made clear that this limitation does not exist in Aronson and therefore the previous rejection of the claims was in error. The new prior art of record has the same deficiency as Aronson. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. Claims 2-9 are dependent upon claim 1 and therefore should also be in a condition for allowance. Claim 4 is amended to emphasize the feature of signatures being computed from electronic communication length and extracted URLs. This basis for forming signatures fully distinguishes over the prior art of record.

Claim 12 is amended to incorporate the limitations of base claims 10 and 11. Accordingly, claim 12 and its dependent claims 13-14 are in a condition for allowance.

Independent claim 15 includes limitations of the type discussed in connection with claim 1. Therefore, claim 15 and its dependent claims 16-20 should also be in a condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that no further impediments exist to the allowance of this application and, therefore, requests an indication of allowability. However, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned if any questions or comments arise.

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